

## **What are the basic expectations for a Self-Sufficiency Contract?**

### **Nebraska Revised Statutes**

§68-1719: ...Based on the results of the comprehensive assets assessment under section 68-1718, the applicant and the case manager shall develop a self-sufficiency contract. The contract shall be built upon the premise of urgent action. To ensure that the applicant can make constant, measurable progress toward self-sufficiency, goals shall be set with timelines and benchmarks that facilitate forward momentum. In the case of an entire family applying for assistance, each family member shall have responsibilities within the self-sufficiency contract

§68-1720:...The contract shall be signed by the applicant and by the case manager representing the state. The state and the applicant shall fulfill their respective terms of the contract.

§68-1722:...The Legislature finds that the state has responsibilities to help ensure the success of the self-sufficiency contract for each recipient. The Department of Health and Human Services shall employ case management practices and supportive services to the extent necessary to facilitate movement toward self-sufficiency within the time limit on participation as provided in section 68-1724.

---

The intent of the time-limited contract is to have a workable plan so that economic self-sufficiency is attained in as expeditious a manner as possible through the provision of training, education and employment preparation; and within the participant's 60-month lifetime limit on receipt of TANF cash assistance. The initial plan must be written with a time frame for achieving their maximum level of economic self-sufficiency based on the individuals needs, assets and goals. Initial plans should not automatically be developed with a 60-month time frame for securing employment and achieving economic self-sufficiency as many of our participants can achieve this in a much shorter period of time.

Although creativity is encouraged in self-sufficiency planning, the creativity should take into account the available resources, programs, participant's abilities, etc., in order to maximize the participant's chance of success within the programs guidelines and time restraints.

04/11/2008